

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-62 (Cancelled)

Claim 63 (New) A device for stabilization of adjacent vertebrae of a spine, the device comprising:

a bone plate;

a plurality of bores in the bone plate each configured to receive a bone anchor extending therethrough;

an anchor lock collar member for being rotatably received in one of the bores;

a small diameter, upper portion of the anchor lock collar member having notches spaced circumferentially thereabout for receiving a driving tool therein to rotate the anchor lock collar member in the one bore;

a larger diameter, lower portion of the anchor lock collar member having a split-ring construction so that the anchor lock lower portion has facing circumferential ends that are spaced apart from one another; and

cooperating inner and outer surfaces of the one bore and the anchor lock lower portion respectively, which cause the facing ends to shift toward each other with rotation of the anchor lock collar member from an open, bone anchor receiving configuration to a clamped, bone anchor locking configuration so that a bone anchor extending through the one bore and the anchor lock collar member therein is locked in the one bore against back out therefrom.

Claim 64 (New) The device of claim 63 wherein the anchor lock lower portion includes two substantially flat surfaces that are opposed to one another and each abut the inner bore surface when the anchor lock collar member is in the clamped, bone anchor locking configuration to resist anchor lock rotation away from the bone anchor locking configuration.

Claim 65 (New) The device of claim 64 wherein each substantially flat surface is adjacent an anchor lock camming surface so that when the anchor lock collar member is rotated between the bone anchor receiving and locking configurations, the transition between the anchor lock camming surfaces camming against the inner bore surface and the anchor lock substantially flat surfaces abutting the inner bore surface provides tactile feedback to a surgeon that the anchor lock has been shifted to the locking position.

Claim 66 (New) The device of claim 63 wherein the direction of anchor lock collar member rotation that shifts the anchor lock from the receiving to the locking configuration is similar to a direction of anchor rotation that would cause anchor back-out, so that anchor rotation in the anchor back-out direction results in a firmer engagement between the anchor lock collar member and the bone anchor.

Claim 67 (New) The device of claim 63 wherein the facing circumferential ends are oriented on the anchor lock collar member in a position that generally avoids contact with the inner bore surface so as to minimize hang-ups when the anchor lock is rotated between bone anchor receiving and locking configurations.

Claim 68 (New) The device of claim 63 wherein the facing circumferential ends of the anchor lock collar member form a gap spacing that is positioned in a predetermined location when the anchor lock collar member is shifted to the bone anchor locking configuration to allow

a surgeon to visually recognize when the anchor lock has been rotated to the locking configuration.

Claim 69 (New) The device of claim 63 wherein the anchor lock collar member has a concave inner surface that compresses around a convex surface of the bone anchor when the anchor lock rotates toward the clamped, bone anchor locking configuration.

Claim 70 (New) The device of claim 63 wherein the bone plate is one of a titanium, stainless steel, and PEEK material.

Claim 71 (New) A device for stabilization of adjacent vertebrae of a spine, the device comprising:

- a bone plate;

- a plurality of bores in the bone plate configured to each to receive a bone screw extending therethrough;

- at least one of the bores being a dynamized bore having an elongate configuration to allow a bone screw extending therethrough and into a vertebrae to shift relative to the bone plate;

- a screw lock member configured to be rotatably received in the dynamized bore for being rotated between a screw receiving unlocked configuration and a screw locking configuration; and

- a substantially smooth inner surface of the screw lock member having an inner diameter sized in clearance with the bone screw when in the screw receiving unlocked configuration with the inner diameter being substantially uniformly reduced in size when the screw lock member is rotated to the screw locking configuration so that the smooth inner surface provides a uniform clamping force about the bone screw to allow relative translation thereof in the dynamized bore and keep the bone screw from backing out therefrom.

Claim 72 (New) The device of claim 72 wherein the rotatable screw lock member has a larger dimension and a smaller dimension, the larger dimension being brought to bear against a recess located in the dynamized bore upon rotation of the screw lock member from the screw receiving configuration to the screw locking configuration which shortens the larger dimension and causes the screw lock member to constrict about the bone screw.

Claim 73 (New) The device of claim 72 wherein the dynamized bore recess has both minor and major axes and the larger dimension of the screw lock member is aligned with the major axis of the recess when the screw lock member is in the screw receiving configuration and the minor axis when the screw lock member is in the screw locking configuration.

Claim 74 (New) The device of claim 72 wherein the substantially smooth inner surface of the screw lock member conforms to a corresponding surface on the bone screw, the screw lock member inner surface and the corresponding surface on the bone screw having a greater coefficient of friction than the larger dimension of the rotatable screw lock member and the dynamized bore recess to permit dynamization of the rotatable screw lock member within the bore without loosening engagement of the screw lock member about the bone screw.

Claim 75 (New) A bone plate system for securing a plurality of bones in a desired alignment comprising:

- a bone plate;
- a plurality of bores extending through the plate which receive bone anchors for securing the plate to the plurality of bones;
- a locking collar configured for being received in one of the bores;
- an upwardly facing cam surface of the locking collar configured for camming against a cooperating downwardly facing surface in the bore so that rotation of the locking collar toward a

locked configuration thereof causes a tight wedge fit of the collar in the one bore to avoid reverse rotation back toward an unlocked configuration of the collar in the bore.

Claim 76 (New) The bone plate system of claim 75 wherein the upwardly facing cam surface of the locking collar includes a ramp disposed between a lower height and a higher height, the higher height restricting reverse rotation of the locking collar back toward the unlocked configuration.

Claim 77 (New) The bone plate system of claim 75 wherein the upwardly facing cam surface of the locking collar has a projection that mates with the downwardly facing bore surface to restrict return rotation of the locking collar.